

October 22, 2013
Testimony to House Health Policy Committee
By Lisa Darrow, RDH, BA

Subject: Bill No.4865, Mobile Dentistry

Good morning members of the committee. My name is Lisa Darrow; I am a registered dental hygienist.

I speak against House Bill 4865.

It is my understanding that this Bill was created to control mobile dental units that target schools and provide preventive services and take x-rays but do not provide any restorative services. They leave it up to the parents to seek restorative treatment. I realize that by creating this Bill you hope to be able to control this, but I do not think this is the appropriate way to enforce or control the few "bad" mobile dental units.

The Department of Community Health and the Bureau of Health Professions are to protect the citizens of Michigan through the regulation of a variety of licensed and registered professions. The responsibilities of the Bureau include issuing licenses and registrations, investigating consumer complaints, and taking action when provisions of the relevant law are violated.


The Board of Dentistry has the authority to regulate and impose sanctions against the license of individuals licensed by the board. If there is a problem with a licensed dentist abandoning patients and/or conducting themselves in way that harms the public then our current system should handle. If it cannot.....then our system is broken and should be fixed. The Michigan Public Health Code contains licensing laws and regulations. Why can't this issue addressed with current law? Did the mobile dental groups in question ever come before the Board?

I have a problem with Creating a new Law that imposes different rules and regulation on dental professionals whose practice is mobile. All dental practice is universally governed by existing rules and guidelines. Creating separate a law because your practice is mobile is unjust.

Mobile Dentistry is the primary source for the under-served population in Michigan to gain services. With the geriatric population explosion and people living longer having dentistry be mobile is more critical than ever.

Please do not impose "special" rules and laws for mobile dentistry because of a few "bad" apples. There are many citizens in Michigan who cannot easily go to or afford a traditional dental office and rely on the dental professional to come to them. They deserve dental care too.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Darrow RDH".

Lisa Darrow, RDH, BA